

EONZ Position Statement on Funding of Educational Experiences

1. EONZ supports the right to free primary and secondary education at every State School in Aotearoa New Zealand, which is the responsibility of the Government to adequately fund.
2. EONZ maintains that access to quality EOTC learning experiences through current practice of fees, charges and donations is not equitable.
3. EONZ supports the introduction of the Donations scheme in order to help facilitate equitable and inclusive access to learning experiences.
4. EONZ is concerned that \$150 of government funding per student per year may be insufficient. Examples include:
 - \$150 may not cover transport and other costs associated with EOTC learning activities and facilities across a school year, for example, swimming pools, galleries, and other community-based learning providers, or curriculum-based field work further afield.
 - \$150 per student may penalise rural schools, secondary schools, schools with extensive EOTC programmes.
5. EONZ maintains that the Donations scheme should apply to all schools, regardless of decile, in order to ensure equitable access to curriculum.
6. EONZ recognises that there has been a lack of consistency in the application of school donations and fees across schools, where curriculum activities have been charged and where requests for donations have exacerbated inequitable access to learning, particularly in EOTC.
7. EONZ maintains that curriculum based EOTC learning experiences, such as camps, should not be considered extra or co-curricular.
8. EONZ supports a move toward engagement and partnership with local organisations, agencies and community groups to facilitate a connection with the local community and environment.

EONZ position on Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)

EONZ maintains that the primary purpose of EOTC is to engage with the New Zealand Curriculum outside the classroom in order to enrich the learning of students in early childhood centres, and primary and secondary schools.

EONZ draws on recent research evidence¹ which states that 96% of all schools in Aotearoa New Zealand consider EOTC to be of high importance to their school. This research shows that school leaders, teachers, and students see value for EOTC across all learning areas for multiple reasons, such as, curriculum enrichment and authentic real-world learning, student engagement and agency and experiencing a sense of something new.

EONZ embraces all the principles of Te Whāriki He Whāriki Mātauranga mō ngā Mokopuna O Aotearoa / Early Childhood Curriculum (2017); Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (2008); and The New Zealand Curriculum (2007); including a commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi and cultural diversity, inclusive communities, coherence in learning across the curriculum, and future focused issues such as sustainability, citizenship, enterprise and globalisation.

EONZ supports the values outlined in the above documents including excellence, innovation, diversity, equity, community, cultural and ecological sustainability, integrity, and respect.

EOTC programme design should be informed by sound pedagogical principles as highlighted in the New Zealand Curriculum.

EONZ maintains that EOTC should at all times occur within the framework of the EOTC Guidelines: Bringing the Curriculum Alive (2016).

EONZ actively supports partnerships with and between teachers, schools and the community.

EONZ supports place based and responsive approaches to EOTC that seek to: strengthen the understanding that students have of their local communities and environments (as well as those further afield), and engender a sense of obligation to care for those communities and environments.

The establishment of positive relationships with teachers and peers in places of significance can foster a sense of belonging to communities and environments that is essential to on-going learning.

EONZ supports engagement with local learning activities that require minimal travel and material cost. See the example [Revisioning School Camps](#).

EONZ encourages action oriented experiential education that explores individual and collective relationships to places to foster vibrant communities and healthy environments.

As an organisation EONZ:

- supports the principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- is committed to reducing the impact it has on the planet
- promotes quality educational experiences and learning that are inclusive and equitable
- is committed to building capability and improved teaching practice across the education sector

¹ Education Outside the Classroom in Aotearoa New Zealand: A Comprehensive National Study